

Appln No. 09/607,843  
Amdt. Dated February 7, 2006  
Response to Office Action of December 15, 2005

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### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Office Action has been carefully considered. It is respectfully submitted that the issues raised are traversed, being hereinafter addressed with reference to the relevant headings appearing in the Detailed Action section of the Office Action.

The Applicant has amended claims. The Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claim set are fully supported by the originally filed specification.

#### ***Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103***

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 8-20, 24-21, 36-43 and 47 as being unpatentable over Dymetman et al (US Patent No 6,330,976) in view of Richards et al. (US Patent No. 6,539,361 B1). Furthermore, the Examiner has rejected claims 21-23, 28, 44-46 and 48 as being unpatentable over Dymetman et al. in view of Richards et al. and in further view of Sekunder (WO 97/22959).

Claims 1 and 29 have been amended to include subject matter from claim 22 and 45 respectively. Subsequently claims 22 and 45 have been cancelled, and claim 44 has been amended accordingly. Claims 1 and 29 now specify the information is printed at the same time as the coded data on a surface-defining means.

The Examiner has relied upon Sekunder (pages 8 to 10) for teaching or suggesting the subject matter of claims 22 to 45, in order to reject the claims as being unpatentable over Dymetman et al in view of Richards et al and further in view of Sekunder.

However, the Applicant respectfully submits that pages 8 to 10 of Sekunder make no reference to printing any information on the form, and further makes absolutely no reference to printing the information and the coded data at the same time. Sekunder only briefly mentions at the second paragraph of page 9 a "*means for formatting comprises any means for imposing coordinates onto a surface, including (1) printing the writing surface with coordinate codes*". Therefore, Sekunder only suggests a means to print the coordinate codes.

Dymetman et al in view of Richards et al would teach the skilled person that a substrate supplier prints the coded data on blank pages, and that the pre-encoded pages are

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subsequently provided to a publisher who prints the information on the encoded pages (refer to Dymetman et al, lines 46 to 65 of column 11). Therefore, Dymetman et al in view of Richards et al teaches a form where the coded data and information are printed at separate times.

If a skilled person in the art were to consider combining Dymetman et al in view of Richards et al with Sekunder, it would be apparent that the means to print the coordinate codes taught by Sekunder could be used by the coded substrate supplier. The coded sheets having the printed coordinate codes would then be supplied to a publisher who would then print the information on the coded substrates. Thus, based on the teachings of Dymetman et al in view of Richards and further in view of Sekunder, it would only be apparent to the skilled person that the coded data and the information can be printed at separate times.

Therefore, it would not be obvious to a person skilled in the art, based on the teachings of Dymetman et al in view of Richards et al and further in view of Sekunder to use a form where the information is printed at the same time as the coded data on a surface-defining means.

The applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 29, as currently amended, are patentable over Dymetman et al in view of Richards et al and further in view of Sekunder.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance of all the claims presently under examination.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



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